

FREE NORMAL SCHOOLS FOR FEMALE TEACHERS OF COMMON SCHOOLS.—In our volume of the past year, we brought this subject before the public and before Congress, or rather our petition is embodied in a bill concerning common school education, which will probably come up during the present session. We therefore present again our views, and humbly request that these may be examined.

Memorial to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled:—

Whereas there are now, within these United States and Territories, more than *two millions of children and youth* destitute, or nearly so, of proper means of education, requiring, at this moment, 20,000 additional teachers, if we give to each instructor the care of one hundred pupils, quite too many for any common school with only one teacher—therefore we beg to call your attention to the following propositions:—

1. That to find 20,000 young men, who would enter on the office of pedagogue, would be utterly impossible, while the great West, the mines of California, and the open ocean, laving China and the East, are inviting them to adventure and activity.

2. That, therefore, young Women must become the teachers of Common Schools, or these must be given up.

3. That young women are the *best teachers* has been proved and acknowledged by those men who have made trial of the gentle sex in schools of the most difficult description (see Reports of the "Board of Popular Education," "Reports of Common Schools in Massachusetts," &c.). Because of the superior tact and moral power natural to the female character.

4. That female teachers are now largely employed, on an average of five of these to one male teacher, in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and wherever the com-

mon school system is in a prosperous condition; and everywhere these teachers are found faithful and useful.

5. That, to make education *universal*, it must be *moderate* in *expenses*, and women can afford to teach for one-half, or even less, the salary which men would ask, because the female teacher has only to sustain herself; she does not look forward to the duty of supporting a family, should she marry; nor has she the ambition to amass a fortune; nor is she obliged to give from her earnings support to the State or Government.

6. That the young women of our land, who would willingly enter on the office of teacher, are generally in that class which must earn their livelihood; therefore these should have special and gratuitous opportunities of preparing them for school duties; thus the Normal Schools, in educating these teachers of Common Schools, are rendering a great national service.

7. That, though the nation gives them opportunity of education gratuitously, yet these teachers, in their turn, will do the work of educating the children of the nation better than men could do, and at a far *less expense*; therefore the whole country is vastly the gainer by this system.

8. That it is not designed to make a class of *celibates*, but that these maiden school-teachers will be better prepared to enter the marriage state, after the term of three or four years in their office of instructors, than by any other mode of passing their youth from seventeen or eighteen to twenty-one. That earlier marriages are productive of much of the unhappiness of married women, of many sorrows, sickness, and premature decay and death, there can be no doubt.

From the foregoing facts and statements, showing the importance of woman's agency in the instruction of the young, and the pressing need of Female Teachers in the Common Schools throughout the land, we venture to request that your honorable body would make some provision for the suitable education of those young ladies who are willing to become teachers, if the way is opened before them.

We respectfully ask the attention of Congress to this subject. While the public domain is parcelled out and granted for internal improvements and plans of national aggrandizement, we would humbly suggest that a small portion be set apart and allotted for the benefit of the Daughters of the Republic. Three or four millions of acres of land would be sufficient to found and endow one Free Normal School for the education of Female Teachers in every State of the Union. These institutions could be modelled and managed in each State to suit the wishes of its inhabitants, and young ladies of every section would be trained as instructors for children in their own vicinity. This would be found of immense advantage in the States where schools have hitherto been neglected. In short, the value of all the physical improvements in our country will be immeasurably enhanced by this provision for Female Education; because in the influence of intelligent and pure-minded women lies the moral power which gives safety and permanence to our institutions, and true glory to our nation.